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REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the amendments to the claims and the remarks presented herein.

The claims in the application are claims 1 to 25, the only claims presented. Claims 13 to 25 stand withdrawn but Applicants request rejoinder if claims 1 to 12 are found allowable since the withdrawn claims are produced by the process of claims 1 to 12.

Applicants traverse the rejection of claims 9 and 12 as being indefinite in the term "optionally" since it is believed clear that the "ceramic pre-layer" is present or not (claim 8) and the pyrolysis step may be preceded or not with a drying step at 80 to 200°C (claim 12). There is nothing unclear about these steps and withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

Applicants are providing a proper abstract herewith as the last page of the application.

Claims 1 and 3 to 12 have been rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by JP 03-39497 Japanese reference which according to the Examiner teaches a tin and iridium oxide or platinum plating on an anode. The anode is a valve metal and the tin/iridium or palladium coating includes a stannous chloride followed by heating at 400-600°C and the valve metal is titanium.

Applicants traverse this ground of rejection since the Japanese reference does not teach the use of a non-stoichiometric compound of the formula



as recited in original claim 2 which was not rejected and this limitation has been incorporated into claim 1. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

In view of the amendments to the claims and the above remarks, it is believed that the claims point out Applicants' patentable contribution. Therefore, favorable reconsideration of the application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures